

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, undated, with transcript

Letter from Mrs Alexander Graham Bell to Dr Alexander Graham Bell. 1327 Connecticut Avenue May 24, 1898. My dear Alec:

I am sorry I did not get a letter off this morning especially when I had had two such nice letters from you. It is such a pleasure to hear from you I like to know that you are thinking of me and what you are doing.

I am glad my pansies were in bloom to greet you and hope the telescope is going to give you some satisfaction. Please let me know what it does.

I have given up wondering about the intentions of our famous "Strategy Board". I can't see what we want one for anyway. Why not make Admiral Sampson or somebody else Admiral in chief and give him full power to go ahead and finish the Spaniards the best way he can. I suspect Admiral Dewey is none too anxious to have his cable repaired. There are disadvantages in being in too close communication with the home office.

So Gladstone is dead. He and Papa and Queen Victoria were the three strong fixtures in life for me, no there's Mamma too, I realize now as never before that we are mortal, living one little span, presently to banish and the world will go on and on and on until when and where? Sometimes I feel as if I wanted to take my children with me when we go, what is there for them, money to be sure, but how few bound to them by ties of close relationship. I hope when they do marry it will be into large family circles.

I think your idea of the Ladies Club taking hold of the new Baddeck paper, exactly after my heart, I hope the paper will materialize who is to manage it?

Library of Congress

I am thankful now that you are not here as it is quite hot at last. But until yesterday it has been really almost cold.

Do you know the size of your cigar bill for the last 2 months? \$112.50. Of course your guests have smoked the best part of that amount but still you do smoke a lot and I do think you might economize on that. Suppose you stop smoking for the time you remain in Beinn Breagh and I will send you telegrams instead? Is that agreed?

Is George Sanders doing anything or could I ask him to do some printing for me?

I will send Mrs Gwillem \$25.00 she will accept it although she won't ask for anything. I am very sorry for her, she is a brave woman. I don't see how she could do any work at present if she has the whole care of her husband.

Much love to you my own dear, Mabel.